

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 APRIL 1984

Israel

Jerusalem Terrorist Attack — "Terrorists" attacked pedestrians in central Jerusalem on 2 April, injuring 48 people, the Israeli police announced in an official communique reported by Jerusalem radio. Three terrorists shot at passersby and attacked a shop and a bus with hand grenades but were captured after civilians and soldiers in the area returned fire, seriously wounding one of the attackers, the radio said.

Coalition Leaderships — At a 1 April meeting of Herut ministers, Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon made it clear that he is determined to run for the Herut leadership while Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said he would announce his decision shortly, IDF Radio reported. The ministers agreed to hold the leadership contest on 12 April. Earlier, Jerusalem radio confirmed that there will be no contest for the Labor Party leadership following announcements by former President Yitzhaq Navon and former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin disclaiming any intention to contest Labor Party and Alignment leader Shim'on Peres' position.

U.S. Embassy Issue — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denied reports that Israel is recommending a compromise over the issue of moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, IDF Radio reported. Nevertheless, Jerusalem radio subsequently announced that a compromise on the issue is emerging in Washington between the Reagan administration and senators friendly to Israel.

Military Policy, Weapons — Israeli officials expressed "strong doubt" that Israel would take the lead in seeking a military solution to Iraq's acquisition of chemical weapons, *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported. Meanwhile, *DER SPIEGEL* charged that Israel has secretly obtained a 120-mm gun as used in West Germany's Leopard tank in order to copy the design for use in its own Merkavas, according to AFP.

Lebanon

IDF Action in Al-Biq'a — The IDF shelled two "terrorist" command bases south of Barr Ilyas in the Al-Biq'a valley on 1 April, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. The action was in response to increased "terrorist" activity against Israeli forces in the eastern sector in which eight IDF soldiers were wounded in recent incidents. Monitored Syrian media did not mention the shelling, but the Phalangist Voice of Lebanon and clandestine Radio Free Lebanon radios asserted that the IDF bombardment hit Syrian as well as Palestinian positions, causing several casualties and sparking fierce Syrian-Israeli artillery duels in which the Syrians used long-range missiles. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio also spoke of violent clashes between Syrian and Israeli forces on 1 April. Voice of Lebanon had earlier reported that Syrian and Israeli forces exchanged fire in the Al-Biq'a on 30 April although

monitored Israeli and Syrian media did not confirm the report. Further west, two IDF soldiers were wounded when another IDF patrol was ambushed in Sidon, IDF Radio reported on 1 April.

Beirut Situation, Political Developments — Clashes continued in the mountain area over the weekend, according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, French troops completed their evacuation from Beirut, and Internal Security Forces took over their vacated checkpoints in the Al-Barbir-Museum area, Paris and Beirut radios noted. President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting of the Higher Political Security Committee during which arrangements for reopening Beirut International Airport were discussed, according to Beirut radio.

A Soviet delegation headed by CPSU Central Committee International Department chief Karen Brutents arrived in Lebanon and held talks with both Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt and Amal leader Nabih Birri, according to the PSP's Voice of the Mountain radio. Arrangements were also made for Brutents to meet with Foreign Minister Elie Salim, Beirut radio noted.

Al-Murabitun leader Ibrahim Qulaylat discussed developments in Lebanon with Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi in Libya, Al-Murabitun's clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported.

Syria

Al-Asad Activities — President Hafiz al-Asad held meetings on 31 March with the senior Soviet military adviser in Syria, Algerian FLN official Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, and Oregon Governor Victor Atiyeh, according to Damascus radio and television reports. Al-Asad told the American visitor that the United States cannot play a constructive role in the region when it is absolutely biased toward Israel and that Syria has no confidence in the credibility of the U.S. Administration, the radio reported. Messaadia said he had conveyed a message to Al-Asad from the Algerian president and discussed Arab and international issues, according to SANA. A "Gulf official" cited by Radio Monte Carlo said Messaadia failed to persuade the Syrian leadership to adopt a "neutral" stand in the Iran-Iraq war. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in Damascus said Al-Asad's talks with the senior Soviet military adviser were aimed at reassuring Soviet leaders over the security of Soviet military advisers in Syria, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service reported.

Policy, Comment on Lebanon — It is incorrect to view the partition of Lebanon as a purely Lebanese affair, and Syria will confront any attempt to partition the country just as it confronted the 17 May agreement, Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' stated in a press interview reported by Beirut radio. Meanwhile, Damascus radio said the decision to withdraw the 6th Fleet from Lebanese waters shows that the United States has suffered a

major political and military defeat which marks the beginning of the "final recession" of its influence from the region. An *AL-BATH* editorial quoted by the radio warned that the decision to withdraw the fleet may be "just a maneuver prior to a major act of aggression."

Jordan

It is "simply impossible" for Jordan to come to terms with Israel's attitude that "what is yours is ours," King Husayn stated at a 30 March press conference broadcast by Amman television. Israel not only occupies all of Palestine, some Syrian territory, and southern Lebanon, he said, but also has designs on part of southern Jordan. The king expressed interest in the prospect of a Labor Party victory in the forthcoming Israeli elections, asserting that this might be a "healthy" change because "Labor appears to be more responsible in terms of its announced position so far."

While reaffirming that "the American scene has been violated by the influence of the Israeli lobby and Israel," Husayn stressed that this is not a criticism of an individual or the U.S. Administration, adding that he has "the highest respect" for President Reagan. As for Jordan's air defense requirements, the king confirmed that "Stinger is no more" and said he will look at "everything that is available" in order to fill the "gap" in Jordan's capabilities. Possible acquisition of British alternatives to the Stinger was not "to my knowledge" discussed during Queen Elizabeth's recent visit to Jordan, the king stated.

Egypt

Mubarak Interview — Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union will be restored to normal soon, President Husni Mubarak disclosed in an interview carried by MENA. The Soviet Union is a superpower which cannot be ignored, he stated, and if no momentum can be given to the Middle East peace process through existing initiatives, "which must be approved by the superpowers," the only solution is to hold an international conference.

ICO Membership — Egypt will officially resume its membership of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) on 2 April, SPA reported.

Libya

The border with Egypt was opened on 31 March to facilitate visits by Egyptian citizens working in Libya, JANA announced. Any measures to prevent these workers from crossing the border will be considered the responsibility of the Egyptians, JANA added citing sources at a Libyan passports and customs office.

Iran-Iraq War

Air Activity — Iranian fighter-bombers on 30 March "completely destroyed" Iraqi forces and military installations in

Rawanduz, 'Ali ash-Sharqi, and 'Ali al-Gharbi, Iran announced in the 30 March military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Iraq, in its 30 March communique carried by Baghdad radio, charged that Iranian warplanes bombed "civilian quarters" in Rawanduz and 'Ali al-Gharbi, killing 8 civilians and wounding 17.

In other developments, Iran shot down an Iraqi helicopter over Mehran on 28 March, an Iraqi fighter plane over Faqqah on 30 March, and another fighter in the Khaybar sector on 31 March, according to military communiqués carried by Tehran radio. Communiqués broadcast by Baghdad radio announced that Iraqi planes and helicopter gunships attacked Iranian positions east of Basra and in the Maysan sector on 30 and 31 March and again on 1 April, inflicting "huge losses." Baghdad radio reported that all aircraft returned safely to base.

Algerian Delegation to Iraq — An Algerian delegation led by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Political Bureau, left Baghdad on 30 March after holding talks with high-ranking Iraqi officials, Baghdad radio reported. The talks centered on the expansion of bilateral relations and developments in the Iran-Iraq war, INA added. According to a "ranking Gulf official" cited by Radio Monte Carlo, the Algerian delegation's regional tour is more of a fact-finding mission than an actual mediation to end the war.

Security Council Statement — The Iranian Foreign Ministry, in a statement carried by Tehran radio, characterized the Security Council's reaction to the UN report on Iraqi chemical weapons use as a failure by the Council to perform its duty, making it "more obvious than ever" that the superpowers were "involved" in supplying Iraq with such weapons. The Foreign Ministry held the Council "directly responsible" for continued use of chemical weapons.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Before concluding its meetings in Tunis on 31 March, the 81st Arab League Council session approved a proposal to hold an emergency meeting in Tunis on 15 May to discuss the agenda and set a date for the 13th Arab summit conference in Riyadh, KUNA and INA reported. The Council also commissioned League Secretary General Chedli Klibi to form two committees, one to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the other with inter-Arab cooperation, KUNA added. At the request of the PLO, the Council decided to convene an emergency meeting in Algiers of Islamic foreign ministers to discuss the future of Jerusalem, AFP stated. The Council also unanimously approved a Lebanese proposal regarding southern Lebanon and Israeli activities there, Beirut radio reported.

Meanwhile, the seven-man committee set up by the Arab League to discuss the Iran-Iraq war also concluded its meetings in Tunis but did not issue a statement on its resolutions or recommendations, KUNA noted. The Saudi foreign minister, in comments cited by SPA, said the committee had agreed on the procedures and international contacts it would make in order to end the war.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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Ganges Talks With India End; Failure Reported
BK010945 Dhaka BSS in English 0915 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Dhaka, April one BSS — India and Bangladesh have rejected each other's proposals for augmentation of waters of common River Ganges after years of negotiations to eventually strike a permanent agreement for sharing waters of the international river.

The agriculture and irrigation ministers of the two countries ended their 2-day meeting here yesterday pronouncing in unequivocal terms their failure to arrive at any decision on the pre-feasibility study of the two proposals required under an bilateral agreement signed in late 1982.

At the end of the conference of the Joint River Commission the Indian minister, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, told newsmen that the two proposals were "equally unacceptable, unrealistic and unimplementable" but promised to continue contacts for the solution of the dispute.

The Bangladesh proposal was to go for tripartite cooperation taking nepal into the fold for construction of a reservoir in the Himalayan kingdom to feed Ganges in the lean period between January to May. But India opposed to keep it within limits of bilateralism. [sentence as received]

Instead India had proposed digging a link canal of over one hundred miles across Bangladesh territory to carry waters of eastern River Brahmaputra to Ganges [word indistinct] above Farakka barrage in India for sharing thus augmented Ganges waters. The Indian proposal was unacceptable to Bangladesh right from the beginning for a variety of reasons, one of which was its involvement of displacement of thousands of people from their home to allow the man-made river pass through.

The interim arrangement for sharing Ganges waters covers the the current dry season that stretches up to the end of May and the two countries would have time to negotiate a fresh agreement before the next season begins in January.

Ershad Swears in Rahman as Prime Minister
BK301736 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The elderly politician Ataur Rahman was sworn in this evening as the prime minister. President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad conducted the simple oath-taking ceremony at Banga Bhavana. Our correspondent says members of the Council of Ministers, politicians, and high-ranking military and civil officials were present at the ceremony.

Besides his responsibilities as prime minister, Ataur Rahman Khan will be in charge of a newly created Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs.

In a brief speech on the occasion, the president said that the country is now passing through a critical period. It is the solemn

duty of all of us to help end this crisis. He said that at his personal request Ataur Rahman Khan has joined the government for the greater interest of the nation in helping to initiate a final effort for the establishment of a democratic system and to hand over power peacefully to the elected representatives of the people.

The newly elected prime minister also spoke at the ceremony. He said he has nothing to expect at his old age. On the contrary, he would like to make certain realistic contributions to our national efforts to achieve prosperity so our future generations can lead a peaceful and happy life. He promised all possible assistance to achieve this goal.

23 Injured in Daylong Clashes in Dhaka
BK310945 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] According to BSS, 23 persons, including 9 policemen, were injured in the daylong sporadic clashes in Dhaka yesterday between the striking rickshaw pullers and policemen. A number of vehicles were damaged by a section of rowdy elements. The situation took a serious turn for the worse in the afternoon at Gulistan and Phulbaria central bus terminals. They agency says a section of teenagers armed with sticks and iron rods resorted to the attack on [word indistinct] vehicles on the streets. They also attacked motorcycle (?drivers).

Begum Zia Not Opposed to Dialogue With Government
BK020643 Dhaka BSS in English 0618 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Dhaka April 2 (BSS) — Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the opposition 7-party alliance and acting president of Bangladesh Nationalist party (BNP), has asked the government to stick its schedule for national elections on May 27. Addressing a public meeting here Sunday, Begum Zia said she was not opposed to a dialogue with the government as proposed by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to ensure smooth transition to democracy. In her first public meeting since the ban on political activities was lifted last March 26, Begum Zia however stressed that a congenial atmosphere should be created for the dialogue.

Briefs

Envoy to USSR — The Government has decided to appoint Syed Najmuddin Hashim, a Minister without portfolio, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Foreign Office announced in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS. [Excerpt] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Mar 84 p 12 BK]

Outgoing Bhutanese Ambassador — (Dago Sarin), outgoing Bhutanese ambassador to Bangladesh, paid a farewell call on the president and chief martial law administrator this morning at Banga Bhavan. [Text] [Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 27 Mar 84 BK]

Sethi on Government Offer To Amend Article 25*BK311605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
31 Mar 84*

[Text] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, said the government will be prepared to consult the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temple Management] Committee and other representatives of the Sikh community as well as legal experts regarding the Akali Dal's misgivings about the wording of the relevant portion of the Article 25 of the Constitution and get it amended suitably to remove doubts on the point. In a statement in New Delhi today, he expressed the hope that the Shiromani Akali Dal will withdraw the agitation it proposes to start on Monday.

Statement in Lok Sabha*BK021313 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
2 Apr 84*

[Text] The home minister has said that the government has never been averse to dialogue and negotiations on any issue raised by the Akali Dal, including those relating to Article 25 of the Constitution. In a statement in the Lok Sabha this afternoon, Mr Sethi pointed out that this issue was not discussed in the earlier talks, nor did it figure in the list of demands submitted by the Akali Dal. Instead of discussing the matter or seeking an amendment through constitutional means, the party unfortunately resorted to a program of agitation, including showing of disrespect of the Constitution.

The minister made it clear that the government did not receive any formal communication from the Akali Dal leadership regarding Article 25 before the 18th of last month. Time and again the government and the opposition parties have called upon them to come to the negotiating table. It is on this point he offered to consult the representatives of the Sikh community and legal experts to take up such resolutions as may be necessary to remove doubts on this point.

Mr Sethi pointed out that since Parliament was closed on Saturday and Sunday and the proposed Akali agitation was scheduled to start from today, he had to make the offer to the Akali leadership outside Parliament.

Expressing satisfaction for the withdrawal of the agitation, Mr Sethi strongly condemned the dastardly killing of the three Nirankaris [a Sikh community] and the murder of a political party leader in Amritsar today. He said the entire nation is shocked at the continued killing of innocent people.

A special discussion on this issue will be held in the House soon.

Earlier, the deputy speaker, Mr Lakshmanan, ruled out any breach of privilege by the home minister in making a statement outside the house on Saturday about government's willingness to consider the Akali demands. Several opposition members had sought to raise the breach of privilege issue against the home minister on the issue. Dissatisfied with the chair's ruling, the entire opposition staged a walkout. The house was also adjourned for an hour today following a procedural wrangle involving a calling-attention motion.

Akali Dal Cancels Agitation Call*BK311553 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
31 Mar 84*

[Text] Here is a flash: Agency reports from Amritsar say that the Akali Dal tonight announced the withdrawal of the call for observing the Azad Panth [Sikh Agitation] week from Monday as a gesture of mutual good will. This is in response to the announcement by the home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi.

Akali Dal Leader's Comment*BK010926 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
1 Apr 84*

[Text] The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Longowal, has appealed to the government to lift the ban on the All India Sikh Students Federation and concede their other demands. In a statement in Amritsar, he said this will create proper atmosphere for resumption of talks to solve the Punjab tangle.

The appeal has come in the wake of the home minister's offer to amend Article 25 of the Constitution. The Akali Dal has already withdrawn the Azad Panth [Free Path] week agitation which was scheduled to begin from tomorrow.

Meanwhile, seven members of the Akali Dal, Talwandi group, have also welcomed the center's offer to amend Article 25. In a joint statement, they said their party believes in peaceful solution of all its demands.

In Amritsar, some unidentified armed miscreants raided an examination branch of the Guru Nanak Dev University and set on fire its record room. The fire was, however, brought under control. According to agency reports, the examination papers stored there for the forthcoming university examinations were salvaged without any damage.

BJP Leader on Amendment Offer*BK011304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
1 Apr 84*

[Text] The national executive of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], now in session in Ahmedabad, has expressed the view that any substantial change in the Article 25 of the Constitution will harm the interest of the Sikh community and the national interest as well. Briefing newsmen today, the party president, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, said the government's offer to consider amendment to the relevant article would diffuse the situation in Punjab. He also said the constitutional amendment should not be considered in isolation; it should be followed up by necessary measures to solve the Punjab tangle and restore peace in the state.

Akali Dal Group Led by Sant Longowal Recognized*BK311625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
31 Mar 84*

[Text] The Election Commission has recognized the Akali Dal group led by Sant Longowal as the real Akali Dal. It has restored

the symbol of scales to the party. The commission's order has been issued in the dispute between the Longowal faction and the group led by Mr Talwandi.

Carrying of Firearms in Amritsar Banned

*BK011242 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
1 Apr 84*

[Text] In Punjab carrying of firearms and ammunition in Amritsar district has been banned for 15 days from today. Prohibitory orders banning the use of motorcycles and scooters have also been extended until the 15th of this month.

Gandhi on Punjab Violence, Opposition 'Rumors'

*BK011028 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
1 Apr 83*

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, today dedicated to the nation the cross-bar unit of the Indian Telephone Industries at Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said that the government is keen to settle all disputes through negotiations.

Referring to the violent incidents in Punjab, Mrs Gandhi said that certain demands of the Akali Dal which are against the interest of national unity cannot be accepted under any circumstances. The prime minister deplored the fissiparous tendencies and agitations in the name of caste, religion, or region and said that they will only slow down the process of development. The prime minister reiterated that the government is paying adequate attention toward the development of backward areas in the country.

Earlier, the prime minister, addressing the concluding session of a 3-day training camp of women workers of her party in Lucknow, said that the opposition parties are spreading all sorts of rumors because they do not have any faith in the welfare program of the people. Mrs Gandhi said that they do not want to see a strong India and also do not want the economic progress of the country. The prime minister urged the people, particularly the women, to fight against the dowry system and other social evils.

Bombs Kill 2, Wound 20 in Punjab

*BK011640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
1 Apr 84*

[Text] In Punjab 2 women were killed and over 20 people injured when two bombs burst at a religious congregation in Rayya near Amritsar this afternoon. The bombs were reported to have been thrown by two unidentified cyclists. The injured have been admitted to hospital. The police have launched vigorous efforts to trace the culprits.

Curfew Imposed

*BK020855 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
2 Apr 84*

[Text] In Amritsar a former Bharatiya Janata Party member of legislative assembly, Mr Harbans Lal Khanna, and his gunman were killed and another person injured today when some assailants fired at them. The assailants who came in a jeep have escaped. Efforts are on to apprehend them. As the news of the killing of Mr Khanna spread, unruly mobs started collecting at various places in the city. They set on fire two buses and indulged in stone throwing at some shops.

Curfew was later clamped for 2 days in view of the mounting tension.

Punjab University Cancels Annual Exams

*BK020904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
2 Apr 84*

[Text] Punjab University has postponed all annual examinations. New dates will be announced later. No reason has been given for the cancellation.

Minister Says Dockworkers Talks at 'Stalemate'

*BK301617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
30 Mar 84*

[Text] Talks between the government and the representatives of the four federations of port and dock workers, which were continuing in New Delhi for the last 1 week, reached a stalemate today. The shipping and transport minister, Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, during the 2-hour discussion told the federation leaders that the government offer for a package proposal of 40 crore rupees is the maximum it can give. He expressed the hope that the federation leaders will come for the next round of talks only by reducing their demand of 67 crore rupees to a reasonable level. According to official sources, the package proposal gives an increase of 18.43 percent over the annual wage bill of 216.31 crore rupees.

The workers' representatives put a conditional proposal that they would accept 57 crore rupees in case for full and final settlement taking into account the HRAMCCA [expansion unknown] if possible. The official sources said this offer was not considered as reasonable because HRAMCCA were merged with basic pay in 1974 on the request of the union leaders.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman said the ports have been able to maintain supplies of vital commodities so far as the strike entered the 15th day. If necessary, the help of the Navy will be taken for loading and unloading of certain other commodities at all the strike-bound major ports.

The workers nominees told newsmen that they are willing to meet the minister tomorrow if invited. The government spokesman said he does not see any point in having another round of talks if the workers stick to their rigid demands.

Union Leaders Blame Government

BK311724 Hong Kong AFP in English 1717 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi, March 31 (AFP) — The leaders of four trade unions, spearheading the 16-day-old port and dock workers strike in 10 major Indian ports, accused the government of "virtually freezing the negotiations and imposing unreasonable conditions for continuing the dialogue." In a joint statement issued after a meeting among themselves for more than an hour today, the union leaders blamed the officials of Shipping and Transport Ministry for their "unimaginative handling of the talks." They said the negotiating team was returning to respective ports for "ensuring continuance of the strike in a peaceful manner till the basic claims are won." The labour leaders, however, declared that they are "willing to return to the negotiating tables at any place and any time without imposing any pre-conditions in respect of their basic claims" such as house rent and city compensatory allowance as applicable to steel workers in port cities.

Referring to the government's stand that it was not expected to make more than a marginal increase, than its "maximum offer" of 400 million rupees or 40 million dollars, the labour leaders while taking exception to this said "this attitude on the part of ministry is contrary to well recognised principles and practices of fair collective bargaining." The statement said it was clear that it was the "recalcitrant attitude adopted by the ministry towards the reasonable demands of the port and dock workers that is responsible for the current stalemate."

Ministry Spokesman on Statement

BK011637 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] A spokesman of the Shipping and Transport Ministry has said any proposal for the next round of discussions should come from the union representatives. The negotiations reached a deadlock on Friday as the union representatives did not reduce their demands of wage rise totaling 67 crore rupees to a reasonable level. The government offered a package proposal of 40 crore rupees amounting to an increase of 18.46 percent over the present wage bill. The spokesman said this is considered a substantial increase when compared to 10-14 percent allowed earlier in case of other public sector undertakings.

The spokesman was commenting on a joint statement issued by the representatives of the four federations yesterday.

AFP: 45 Strikers Arrested

BK021305 Hong Kong AFP in English 1248 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] New Delhi, April 2 (AFP) — Forty-five striking port workers were arrested at Kandla port in Gujarat State on the northwestern coast for violating prohibitory orders, PRESS

TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency reported today.

Dandla is among the 10 major ports paralysed by the indefinite strike launched by a total of 300,000 workers pressing wage hikes. the work stoppage entered its 18th day today. Prohibitory orders prevent the assembly of five or more people and PTI said the port authorities at Kandla had enforced a ban on assembly at the port or within 100 metres (yards) around since the strike began.

No details were available of the circumstances under which the workers were arrested yesterday, or whether they were still being held. The situation at Kandla otherwise remained peaceful today as in all other strike-bound ports.

Negotiations between the federal government and representatives of four trade unions leading the strike broke down here on Friday and there have been no signs of moves towards fresh talks.

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Suspended

BK301644 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Andhra Pradesh legislative council is prorogued with immediate effect. The house met twice this morning and adjourned as no minister was present. This follows the recommendation of the state cabinet, which met early this morning. Later, the chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, called on the governor and explained to him the circumstances warranting the prorogation of the house. The opposition members also met the governor today and pleaded that proroguing the house would be undemocratic and against the constitution. The governor is reported to have told them that he would act in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

The prorogation follows the controversy between the legislative council and the Supreme Court over a privilege issue involving Mr Ramoji Rao, editor of *EENADU*, a Telugu daily. The legislative assembly adopted a resolution today reserving the motion adopted by the legislative council yesterday. The assembly's resolution urged the president to consider the letter written by the chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, seeking his advice on the issue.

The state finance minister, Mr N. Bhaskara Rao, told the assembly that the decision to prorogue the council was taken in view of the lack of business before the house since the budget demands were yet to be passed by the assembly. The issue led to noisy scene between the treasury and opposition benches, leading to abrupt adjournment of the assembly an hour ahead of schedule.

Indira Gandhi Addresses Austrian Journalists

BK311640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister has said India is trying its best for a solution of the Iran-Iraq war. We are constantly in touch with both countries, but the situation seems to become more and more

complicated. Mrs Gandhi was speaking to the Austrian media accompanying the chancellor, Dr Sinowatz, who left New Delhi this morning at the end of his state visit.

The prime minister expressed concern at the world situation, saying that it is more dangerous now than ever before. Replying to a question on organizing another international summit like the one in New York, Mrs Gandhi said the Austrian chancellor had told her that he would be willing to host it in Vienna if held there. But no further steps have actually been taken about such a meeting, she clarified.

Asked about Indo-Pakistan relations, Mrs Gandhi said we are doing everything possible to increase cooperation and to build an atmosphere of friendship because we believe that the best victory is to avoid war, but it is quite true that the situation is not satisfactory. Pakistan, unfortunately, blamed us for interference in its affairs — which we have not done at all.

Parliament Informed of U.S. Aid to Pakistan

*BK301046 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
30 Mar 84*

[Text] The United States proposes to give \$630 million as economic and military aid to Pakistan next year. The minister of state for defense, Mr Singh Deo, told the Lok Sabha today that Pakistan is already receiving military hardware, including F-16 aircraft and other sophisticated equipment from the United States. India has conveyed its concern on the subject to the U.S. Government.

The House was also informed about the purchase on infrared instruments by Pakistan from China for its tanks. Members were assured that government is keeping a close watch on security environment to ensure full defense preparedness.

Sethi Says Constant Vigil Needed on Borders

*BK310955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
31 Mar 84*

[Excerpt] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, has said there is need constant vigil on the country's borders in view of the latest weaponry being acquired by a neighboring country. Presenting a regimental color to the Border Security Force [BSF] in New Delhi today, Mr Sethi said the security forces need to be strengthened to check infiltration and smuggling. Mr Sethi lauded the role played by the BSF in keeping vigil on the country's borders and helping the civil administration in maintaining internal security and peace.

Concern Expressed over Killings in Sri Lanka

*BK301602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
30 Mar 84*

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Ramachandran, has in a message to Mrs Gandhi expressed grave concern over the recent incidents of violence in Sri Lanka in which a number of people of Indian origin were killed. He said the incidents have

caused widespread distress in Tamil Nadu.

Mr Ramachandran had separate meetings in Madras today with the prime minister's special envoy, Mr G. Parthasarathy, and the secretary general of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Mr Amirthalingam, and discussed with them the latest situation Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi an official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry has said that India's expression of regret over the latest incidents in Sri Lanka was applicable to the recourse of violence enforced by all concerned. He said his statement on Wednesday in which he expressed India's profound regret at the use of violence and force in Sri Lanka appears to have been misconstrued. The Indian high commissioner in Colombo will be getting in touch with the Sri Lankan authorities to clarify the position, he said.

Reporters in Moscow Complain of Launch Coverage

BK010725 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 1 Apr 84

[By Govindan Unny]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, April 1 (AFP) — Indian journalists taken to Moscow to cover the Indo-Soviet joint space flight on Tuesday have protested to the Indian Embassy against denial of permission to cover the launch from Baykonur Cosmodrome, in Soviet Kazakhstan, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA agency reported today. The journalists were taken to Moscow by the Indian Government Information Bureau after they were issued visas by the Soviet Embassy here. The agency said in a dispatch from Moscow that some of the journalists expressed dismay on finding their names dropped from the list of correspondents allowed at the launch site on their arrival in the Soviet capital.

Those allowed included reporters from the pro-Moscow Delhi daily *PATRIOT*, the communist-leaning weeklies, *BLITZ* and *NEW AGE*, two Moscow-based correspondents of the Indian news agencies, PTI and UNI, and three from the government-owned All-India Radio and Television.

PTI, which did not name the correspondents dropped, said the list prepared and sent to the Indian Embassy in Moscow was changed at the last minute at the insistence of Soviet officials, raising confusion among the newsmen who had expected to file reports from Baykonur Cosmodrome. PTI said the Indian Embassy in Moscow told the correspondents that it was unable to help while an Indian Defence Ministry official, who accompanied them from Delhi, was also helpless in the matter. An Indian embassy spokesman said it was with great difficulty that three people from All India Radio and TV had been included in the trip to the cosmodrome. The Soviets, according to PTI, have also barred photographers from the Indian press and the official Information Bureau, saying that all photographs would be supplied by the Soviet official news agency. A limited number of Indian newsmen, however, would be allowed to cover the space flight from the mission control centre near Moscow, which, in any case, was linked to the mission information centre at the air force headquarters in Delhi, it added.

Asked to comment on the report, an Indian Defence Ministry spokesman here dismissed it as "baseless."

Minister Rules Out Change in Form of Government

BK020322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT

2 Apr 84

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, has categorically ruled out any move on the part of the center to switch over to presidential form of government. Speaking to newsmen at Tiruchi airport, he dismissed as baseless the allegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr Vajpayee, that the center is contemplating abolition of the parliamentary form of government. Mr Venkataraman disclosed that the Congress-I High Command will take action against the party members of legislative assembly from Tamil Nadu, who are alleged to have indulged in cross voting in the recent biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha from the state.

Briefs

Iron to Romania, Japan — India is to supply 12 million tons of iron ore to Japan and Romania during 1984-85. The lower house of Parliament was informed today the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has finalized contracts to sell 8 million tons to Japanese steel mills and 4 million tons to Romania. [Text] [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 30 Mar 84 BK]

Agreement With French Firm — Oil India has signed an agreement with a French firm for the first phase of its exploration program in Rajasthan. It is expected to cost 30 crore rupees. The agreement, signed in New Delhi, covers cooperation in data acquisition and setting up of an advanced computer center in Rajasthan for geological and geophysical data. The seismic surveys, to be undertaken jointly, will help oil india identify sites of drilling. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 84 BK]

Loan to Mauritius — India is to give 5 crore rupee loan to Mauritius to finance her export of capital goods, old ships, and consultancy services. An agreement was signed by the finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, and his Mauritian counterpart in New Delhi today. This is the third loan offered to Mauritius. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Mar 84 BK]

Cotton Exports — The Cotton Corporation of India has set up a new record by exporting 2 lakh 57 thousand bales of cotton last year. It has started purchasing cotton from different centers in the Saurashtra region. According to official sources, seven more centers will be opened in this region, including Kutch, soon. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Mar 84 BK]

Power Generation Increases — Power generation increased by 7 percent during the first 10 months of the current financial year. The generation by thermal stations was over 7,700 million units, while hydrogeneration was about 4,600 million units. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 84 BK]

Inaction on Chemical Weapons Use Criticized

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD312205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT
31 Mar 84

[Text] In connection with the stance taken by the United Nations on the use of chemical weapons by the Zionist regime of Iraq against the Islamic combatants, our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement. The text of the statement is as follows:

In His exalted name. At a time when the criminal action of Iraq in using chemical weapons against the Islamic Republic of Iran has intensified the hatred of the world population against the actions of the Iraqi regime more than ever before and opened a new chapter in violating international law and regulations, the world expects that, since the use of chemical weapons constitutes a threat against all mankind and since, for the first time in the history of the use of chemical weapons, there are sufficient documents and evidence put at the disposal of an international organization, this time the UN Security Council would give priority to safeguarding the interests of the world population against the colonialist interests of the superpowers and would condemn without reservation this great violation of respect for international laws, if only in words.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran expected on the basis of its past experiences, once again it was proved that unfortunately the Security Council is completely overpowered by the colonialist whims of the superpowers, so much so that even when the world population asks for a decisive stance against a threat the Security Council keeps up a pretence and takes steps in the opposite direction. This is at a time when the Council, according to its most important *raison d'être*, should take decisive measures and act speedily. But the Council did not even pass a resolution and merely issued an announcement. Even then, in the announcement, the use of chemical weapons was linked with the issue of the war and was given less weight.

The Islamic Republic of Iran invites the world population to consider the following points in this connection:

1. The use of chemical weapons, which was banned in accordance with the 1925 protocol, is in reality a great and serious threat against the entire world and thus the Council was dutybound in accordance with the UN Charter to consider it independently and to condemn it.
2. The Council's failure to perform its duty in this respect makes it more obvious than ever that the superpowers are involved in supplying Iraq with chemical weapons.
3. In view of its reaction, the Security Council is obviously directly responsible for the continuation of the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime and any other source.
4. The irresponsible reaction of the Security Council proves the point better than ever that the Council by no means fulfills the objectives set out in the UN Charter and thus the Council has lost its *raison d'être*. The world population under these cir-

cumstances lacks any powerful and effective tool to fulfill its objectives and impose its will.

Superpower Press Whitewashes Issue

LD312244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT
31 Mar 84

[Statement issued by War Propaganda Headquarters — no date given]

[Text] Following the exposure of the crime committed by the Baghdad rulers in the use of chemical weapons against the warriors of Islam, the press affiliated with the Eastern and Western superpowers, because of their inhumane nature, instead of offering some kind of practical plan to ban production and use of inhumane weapons and instead of enlightening world public opinion on the well proved crime committed by Saddam at-Tikriti, are trying to divert conscientious world public opinion — which is disturbed and concerned about the danger facing mankind — by waging a cold war against each other. The War Propaganda Headquarters announces: The two superpowers, whose hands are smeared with the blood of the oppressed and innocent in most parts of the world, and who jointly encouraged, armed, and supported Saddam in his attack on a newly established revolution, intend to suppress Saddam's war crime by staging a propaganda show and a pretence of superficial clashes among themselves. They are trying to make the world forget a crime that has been proved after several months and has been confirmed by international experts.

It is interesting that despite the unconditional confirmation of international organizations of the use of chemical weapons against the combatants of Islam by the Baghdad rulers, the Eastern mass media are still claiming that the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime is very much in doubt. Stressing the point that Washington and Moscow have hatched a joint conspiracy against the Islamic Revolution to cover up the war crimes of the Baghdad rulers — in fact they have never favored real destruction of chemical weapons — the War Propaganda Headquarters calls upon the Muslims of the world and conscientious people everywhere to do everything in their power to make sure that this clear example of a war crime is not forgotten. They should pay no attention to the propaganda war between the two superpowers and should expose this collusion of the superpowers against oppressed nations. If no serious and responsible step is undertaken to prevent the use of chemical weapons at this historic moment, future generations will never forgive the present generation for its indifference.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message to Parliaments

LD011211 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
1 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The Majlis speaker and Imam Khomeyni's representative on the Supreme Defense Council [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] has sent a message to speakers of parliaments of other countries in connection with the use of chemical bombs by the Zionist Iraqi regime. Here is the message:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. No doubt you are aware that over the recent weeks the regime ruling Iraq has been making extensive, unprecedented use of various chemical weapons and toxic gases against the Islamic Republic of Iran's people and combat forces. Although the United Nations and Security Council experts, in reporting and commenting on this great tragedy, took a conservative and not a courageous approach, nevertheless, considering the existence of adequate evidence and documents, they admitted some of the horrendous facts, despite obstructions raised by the satanic powers. They then drew the attention of people throughout the world to the tragedy which is seriously threatening humanity. As for the Western media, contrary to their past prejudiced stance and hostility against our revolution, they were forced by public opinion to reveal some of the horrendous crimes committed by the Iraqi war criminals.

Though the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys greater technical and scientific facilities to manufacture and use these weapons than does its Iraqi enemy, nevertheless, taking cognizance of its adherence to Islamic morality, respect for mankind and international mores, it has so far refused to make use of banned weapons and has not resorted to retaliation in kind, which is an accepted right. The Islamic Republic of Iran is still displaying patience despite the fact that there are nearly 3,000 wounded and disabled and more than 40 martyrs as a result of chemical bombings. It is therefore adhering to its commitment. However, quite justifiably, it expects pious people to realize and appreciate this tolerance, patience, and adherence to principles, and to voice their appreciation for the encouragement of wayfarers of the path of truth and the punishment of criminals.

In view of the fact that reports indicate that the Iraqi regime intends to make use of chemical weapons on a greater scale in the future, we therefore expect the esteemed members of parliaments to convey our words to their peoples and call on their respective governments and countries to voice their protests in condemning this crime and to thwart the promotion of this sinister precedent. This is a crime that the postwar generations continue to identify with Hitler and Mussolini, a crime whose stain will never be removed from their characters.

I shall end my message, hoping for more attention to be paid to the consequences of the Iraqi Afiaquist impudence.

[Signed] The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, April 1984

U.S. Seizure Mere Ploy

LD011239 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
1 Apr 84

[Text] According to the U.S. Administration, 500 kg of chemical agents — the main agents for manufacturing chemical bombs — which were being shipped by that country to Iraq, have been seized at Kennedy Airport in New York by customs officials. Political observers believe the announcement by the U.S. Administration goes a long way toward proving that country's involvement in the manufacture of chemical bombs for the Iraqi regime, which is using them against the Islamic combatants.

Observers emphasize that the fear of such a revelation to the world forced the United States, on the one hand, to portray itself as opposed to exporting chemical weapons to Iraq and to make this announcement about the discovery and seizure of these substances, thus exonerating the U.S. Administration from involvement in such a crime, which has resulted in universal condemnation. On the other hand, by declaring that the agents could be used to prepare chemical bombs, the U.S. Administration intends to hold Iraq itself responsible for manufacturing chemical bombs, therefore exonerating the governments accused of sending chemical weapons to Iraq.

Iranians Celebrate Islamic Republic Anniversary

Tehran Ceremonies

LD011223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
1 Apr 84

[Excerpts] On the six spring of freedom today, the Muslim nation of Iran honored the day of God of 12 Farvardin [1 April], the sixth anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. By mass participation in great marches and gatherings all over the country, once again the nation renewed its eternal covenant with the imam of the ummah and once again demonstrated its enormous might to crush enemies of the Koran and Islam and to destroy the conspiracies of global arrogance. Simultaneously with other cities of our country, the Muslim and revolutionary people of Tehran this morning also headed for Imam Hoseyn square from various districts in order to participate in the glorious ceremonies of 12th Farvardin. The people gradually flooded Imam Hoseyn Square and adjacent streets. The vast gathering of crowds of people in Imam Hoseyn Square and adjacent streets prevented all movement toward the square.

The ceremonies marking 12 Farvardin, the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the victory of the oppressed over the arrogant in Islamic Iran, began around 0945 with recitation of verses from the Holy Koran. The people chanted as one: "The Islamic Republic is continuation of the divine rule," "12 Farvardin is God's Day, God's Day," "Neither East nor West, the Islamic Republic is best," and "Independence, liberation and the Islamic Republic."

Afterward, Mr Jannati, the secretary of the Supreme Council for Islamic Publicity, made a speech offering congratulations on the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the imam of the ummah, all the martyrs, the wounded and the self-sacrificing forces of the revolution, who have had a share in the establishment of this system. He also paid tribute to the hezbollahi ummah who through their continuous efforts have stabilized the system of the Islamic Republic.

Jannati Address Quoted

LD011811 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 1 IRNA — Speaking before a huge crowd at Imam Hussein (AS) Square in Tehran on Islamic Republic Day, Ayatollah Jannati said the Muslim people of Iran had shown through many elections in the past five years that they are

still loyal to their 98.2 percent vote in support of the establishment of an Islamic Republic and would bear all difficulties. The Council of Guardians' member said the Islamic Republic could not reach all the aims of Islam and the revolution because of the 43-month-old war imposed upon it. But he said the people would reach these aims when the enemies of the Islamic Republic had been eliminated and a free and independent Iran was stabilised in the region.

He added that many obstacles were made in the way of the Islamic Republic by its enemies who had now realised they could not force the Iranian Muslim nation to surrender even by 43 months of war. "The same way this nation deposed the monarchical regime and gradually expelled the (Iraqi) enemy from its land...our combatant brothers will heroically resist enemy fire and will advance until they bring the region under the flag of Islam, Insha-Allah," he said.

"During these five years," Ayatollah Jannati said, "this deprived nation went through all plots and troubles created by external and internal enemies with their sacrifices. When the enemies and bullies of the world witnessed... after eight or nine elections the people stabilised all the organs of this country with their votes and... are still loyal to their firm vote (for the creation of an Islamic Republic) On April 1, 1979... they (the enemies) saw that their calculations had gone all wrong..."

Ayatollah Jannati said "one third of the government's budget and facilities are expended for war and related affairs therefore it cannot carry out the commitment set to it by Islam and the revolution and expected by people so soon. We must be patient. We must know that the time we will reach those divine goals is when we throw out the enemies from the arena for ever and stabilise a free and independent state in this region forever."

But he also said that despite all the difficulties, the Islamic Republic had done much for the deprived, such as the efforts of the construction Jihad Workers throughout the rural areas of the country.

Today's ceremonies at Imam Hussein square began at 10 a.m. at a gathering of thousands of people who marched to the square or came by buses. Also hundreds of Islamic combatants who will soon be dispatched to battlefronts, participated.

Islamic Republic day ceremonies were held in all other cities and towns.

Musavi Addresses Saveh Meeting

LD011902 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Saveh, Central Province, April 1 IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here today that the Iranian nation, with a view to the past functions and experiences, has now realised that April 1st stands at the top of the divine days in the Islamic Republic. He said by continuing this path more seriously, the Muslim nation will thwart many of the conspiracies and ominous moves being designed against the Islamic revolution.

Speaking to a huge crowd of the people here on the occasion of April 1st (Islamic Republic Day), Musavi referred to the extensive opposition by the superpowers aimed at destroying Islam in Iran, and said, "today we can better understand the significance of this day (April 1) and the greatness of the revolution, through witnessing the presence of the U.S. warships in the Strait of Hormuz, the support of the West and East for Saddam, and the increasing conspiracies of imperialism and Zionism against ourselves throughout the world..."

Pointing to the blind and hypocritical activities of the agents of West and East in creating turmoil in Kordestan and Gonbad regions (or Iran) and other similar attempts elsewhere after the 1979 revolution, the prime minister said despite all these propaganda efforts and disturbances, "we saw that the referendum was held on Farvardin 12 (1979) and over 98 percent of the people participated in it which was the most unprecedented referendum in the world...without this referendum we would not be able to carry out the Islamic tenets. With their yes vote to the Islamic Republic on this day, the people declared that they were determined to have these (Islamic) principles carried out."

The prime minister stated that the movement of the Islamic Revolution was started from zero. "Without having any pattern we established all the Islamic revolutionary institutions so that presently we have the judicial, executive and legislative powers and other institutions that have been unique in the past century," said Musavi.

In another part of his speech, Prime Minister Musavi referred to the domination of the dependent news media in the world and said today all these eastern and western oriented media were mobilised against the Islamic Republic. Because, Musavi said they were in the hands of the big powers and a major portion of them were controlled by the "usurper Israel" and international Zionists as well as the eastern bloc.

On the Iraqi use of outlawed chemical weapons against Iran's Islamic combatant and the U.N. condemnation of this Iraqi atrocity without directly mentioning the name of the Baghdad regime, the prime minister said this revelation was sufficient and that "we do not expect more of the United Nations."

On the second term of the Majlis elections (to be held in two weeks) he said it was natural that the next Majlis should make very important decisions and cope with many problems for the sake of the revolution. Therefore, he said it was very significant for all and the people should actively participate in the elections.

In related news, the prime minister who was here to inaugurate the Pars tyre factory, the largest in the Middle East, returned to Tehran Sunday afternoon.

President Criticizes Dutch Bill, UN Gas Report

LD301247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Excerpts] On the eve of Yawm Allah [God's Day], the anniversary of establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, millions of

Muslim compatriots took part in political-religious ceremonies of Friday prayers all over the country today. The University of Tehran and its surrounding streets today also saw mass participation of the people in Friday prayers, this eternal Muslim tradition, held under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. At the start of the second sermon, referring to the Yawm Allah of 1 April, the anniversary of establishment of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Friday imam of Tehran said: The most important occasion of this week for the nation of Iran and for the Muslim nations of the world who are dreaming and hoping for the realization of Islam's rule is the anniversary of Islamic Republic Day.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i referred to the arbitration of the Hague International Court of Justice in the Iran-American dispute. He said: The United States has put pressure on the Netherlands Government to pass a bill in that country's parliament which would serve U.S. interests against Iran. Of course, we do not expect anything else from the United States, but why should an independent country such as the Netherlands allow itself to be affected by the United States to lose the credibility of an international court? We, as an independent nation, shall not retreat with regard to the United States in any corner of the world and we shall not tolerate any direct or indirect U.S. pressure. Today, the world respects our nation and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Even our enemies respect our nation. If the Netherlands Government insists on imposing this bill on us, we shall leave the International Court of Justice in the Hague. The bravery of our nation toward the threats of the superpowers is another example of blessings and victories brought about after the victory of the Iranian Islamic Revolution and establishment of the Islamic Republic system.

Referring to the mass participation of various sections of the nation in elections and nationwide polls, including the referendum on the constitution, determining the type of governing system, the Majlis elections, elections for the Assembly of Experts, and the presidential elections, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i emphasized: We do not claim to have achieved all the goals of the Islamic Republic over the past few years, with the burden of more than 3 years of war and various conspiracies of the enemies, but the victories of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran are remarkable in every field.

Referring to the exposure of the crimes of the Iraqi Zionist regime with regard to the use of chemical weapons, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] About the Iraqi chemical war against us, I must say that with the help of Almighty God, this weapon of the enemy has backfired against him. I heard that the authorities of the Baghdad regime, even Saddam himself, have denied the use of chemical weapons. How nice that they have made this denial! Once again they proved to world public that they are liars. The UN factfinding mission came and declared that chemical bombs had been used. The mission also determined the type of chemical bomb, the mustard gas and another poisonous gas which destroys the nervous system and is known as

Tavun. The mission left Iran and the United Nations declared its position to a certain extent. Its position was not so decisive as it should have been. However, the interested people of the world realized that Iraq committed the crime.

At the same time, the responsible authorities of the Iraqi regime have, as usual, denied the fact. They say they have not done it and are not prepared to give up their false claims. This is in the interest of the Iranian nation and of us, because it shows that this regime has no other option but to resort to lies. Thanks be to God, the reflection of this issue has been very good in the world.

The United Nations took a relatively worthy step. It was right to send the experts. The report of the experts was also accurate. But the declaration of the United Nations with regard to this report was not as one expected. Iraq's name was not been mentioned in the report, while it has been proved that chemical weapons have been used against the Iranian forces on the Iran-Iraq battlefronts. Why did they not mention the name of the party which used chemical weapons? Why have they not condemned the guilty party? Who used this gas against Iranian forces on the Iran-Iraq battlefront? Have we any other enemies besides Iraq who are engaged in the war? Therefore, Iraq's name should have been mentioned. Still it is not too late. It is appropriate for the United Nations to show its decisive stance to the world by denouncing and condemning Iraq. With such a decisive stance, the United Nations will bring a glimmer of hope to the hearts of nations.

Many governments have not yet condemned Iraq's act. All those who were awaiting the UN response must condemn The Iraqi act. If those governments and individuals who would like to remain neutral were to carry out this righteous and just action, certainly the way would be blocked to other criminals to commit such crimes which have been banned by international organizations. They surely must carry out this action, and I call upon Muslim nations, in all corners of the world, and the oppressed nations to feel responsible as a human being who has discovered a truth and feels he should cry out to let others know. I call upon them to ask their own governments and even put pressure on their governments to condemn this act by Iraq. [end recording]

IRNA Reports Muslim Students' D.C. Demonstration *LD311843 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 31 Mar 84*

[Text] Washington, March 31, IRNA — A large group of Muslims from Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, the U.S. and other countries, in a demonstration Friday, marched towards the White House in Washington and condemned the employment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime and the aids of the U.S., France, Soviet Union, Britain and other supporters of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. The demonstrators, while expressing their hatred for the plots hatched by these countries against the Islamic Republic of Iran, demanded a halt to supplying Iraq with chemical weapons. The demonstration, which was called by the Muslim students society in the U.S. and Canada, after reading out a resolution and holding mass unity prayers ended their demonstration.

Montazeri Meets Military Commander, Others

GF020652 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT
2 Apr 84

[Text] According to our correspondent, yesterday Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, the commander in chief of the Iranian Armed Forces; Hojjat ol-Islam Ja'far Sobhani; a teacher at the Qom religious college; and Ha'iri Tehrani, a clergyman from Tehran, separately called on Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

Ayatollah Montazeri, in his meeting with Zahirnezhad, expressed hope that the Army will raise its standards of learning in Islam and professional matters and, for this purpose, use the experience gained in the war and the manpower available in the country. Such a policy, he said, will soon provide Iran with a experienced and ready Army capable of defending the country and the revolution.

Theological Teachers

LD311735 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Qom, March 31, IRNA — The prominent jurisprudent, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri received members of the society of theologian teachers at Qom's theological school here Friday night. During the meeting the visiting group presented Ayatollah Montazeri with a report on the requirements of the school, and Ayatollah Montazeri gave guidelines concerning the issues brought up.

Condemns Executions in Kuwait

GF020650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT
2 Apr 84

[Text] According to a report yesterday, in connection with the death sentences passed in Kuwait on certain Muslim Iraqi and Lebanese youth by the Kuwaiti Government, a group of Iraqi clergymen and learned men called on Grand Ayatollah Montazeri at Qom yesterday. These visitors at the meeting with Ayatollah Montazeri expressed the concern of the fighting Iraqi and Lebanese clergy over this action by the Kuwaiti Government.

In reply, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said that it is a matter of regret and surprise that the Kuwaiti Government, instead of supporting Islam and its own national aspirations in the face of the usurper Israel and the foreign infidel forces such as the United States and France, is trying persons who are doing their Islamic duty by fighting the enemies of Islam and the enemies of the Arab nation. Such trials mean nothing, the grand ayatollah said, except support by the Kuwaiti Government for the colonial interests and the anti-Islamic regime in Israel, the United States, and France.

If the Kuwaiti Government and all other Gulf states had accepted Islam and the Koran as their bastion and had preserved their relations with their own peoples, no foreign power would have dared to establish its sway over the Gulf states. There would have been no occasion for these states to drag their own Muslim youth, fighting for Islam and the Koran, to prisons and trials.

Armed Forces Issue Joint Staff Communiques**No 1,681**

LD301748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
30 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,681 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] At about 0900 today a number of fighters of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out a successful cross-border operation, bombing enemy forces and military installations in Ravanduz, 'Ali ash-Sharqi, and 'Ali al-Gharbi inside Iraq and completely destroyed them. After the operation our fighter planes returned to their bases unharmed.

Yesterday the forces of Islam opened fire on enemy forces in the northwestern operational region. In the Marivan and Panjwin regions our combatants disrupted enemy engineering equipment's activities and troop movements, destroyed an engineering vehicle belonging to the Saddamists, and killed a number of Iraqi forces. In the western operational region sporadic exchanges of fire between our forces and that of the enemy continued all along the front line. In Mehran region the exchanges of fire were more intense than in other areas.

At 1540 on Wednesday one enemy helicopter was detected flying in front of our units in Mehran operational area. The helicopter was hit by anti-aircraft defense units' fire and crash-landed inside Iraq in flames.

In exchanges of fire along the banks of the Arvand Rud the combatants of Islam returned the enemy fire, opening fire on enemy positions and fortifications west of the river, and destroyed several vehicles and five slit trenches and observation posts.

Yesterday the enemy damaged 16 houses, 10 shops, and a mosque in Abadan with long-range weapons fire. Several points in the city caught fire.

No 1,682

LD311805 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
31 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,682 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] At 1330 today, one intruding plane of the Iraqi aggressive armed forces was shot down by the air defense units and the fast flying fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the khaybar operational sector.

Yesterday, exchanges of fire continued between our forces and the Saddamist mercenaries in the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, Hajj 'Umran and Marivan operational fronts. The victorious warriors of Islam defended the positions and regions under their protection by opening defensive fire, dispatching patrols, and by setting up ambushes. The Iraqi forces suffered losses and casualties in each region, and their fire was either reduced to a bear minimum or was silenced. Our warriors also disrupted the enemy's defensive

and patrol operations and destroyed part of his positions and trenches. For instance, in one of the regions about 80 percent of the Saddamists' bases were destroyed and a number of their troops were killed.

Enemy patrols trying to infiltrate our positions were forced to flee in the Panjwin sector. One of their trucks was destroyed and a number of their troops were killed. Our forces in the Chuman Mustafa region pounded moving motorized columns of the Saddamists and dispersed the Iraqi vehicles, inflicting some losses.

On the western and southern fronts of the country, the mighty warriors of Islam silenced the fire of the Iraqi forces. Exchanges of fire were more intense in the Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar regions, on the western fronts, and in Jofeyr and (Chenaneh), on the southern fronts. In these regions the mighty warriors of Islam continued further consolidation of their defensive positions and dispatched patrols and reconnaissance groups to collect information on enemy activities, positions, and movements. They disrupted the movements of the Saddamist forces and inflicted losses and casualties on them. The warriors of Islam in the western region set fire to one ammunition depot, destroyed three trucks, and killed or wounded a number of the enemy troops in each region.

On the basis of a report from the Gendarmerie, at 1830 yesterday, 30 March, two intruding fighter planes of the Iraqi aggressive armed forces violated airspace of our units in the Faqqah region. One of the intruding planes was shot down by our air defenses.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts the brave Gendarmerie combatants pounded the enemy positions and units on the other side of Arvand Rud and destroyed at least six machine gun and RPG-7 emplacements and several observation posts of the Iraqi forces. The fire of our Gendarmerie warriors also controlled and disrupted movement of the enemy's military and logistic vehicles along the Al-Faw-Basra axis.

At 1230 today the Saddamist criminals bombed the city of Gilan-e Gharb, martyring and wounding a number of our compatriots and destroying several houses. The cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr were fired on yesterday by the Saddamist mercenaries. Five of our compatriots in Abadan were wounded and more than 35 shops and houses were destroyed.

No 1,683

*LD011710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
1 Apr 84*

[Communique No 1,683 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Exchanges of fire continued yesterday in the western operational theater, being most intense in the (Dasht-e Zahab) and Mehran sectors. While defending their sectors, the combatants of Islam brought enemy positions, tanks, gun emplacements, and personnel under fire, thus preventing enemy movements.

In the Dehloran and (Musiyan) sector, Gendarmerie combatants set an enemy truck carrying personnel and two trenches alight, killing several aggressors.

In the northwestern operational theater, our combat units brought enemy assembly points, fortifications, and gun emplacements under fire, destroying several enemy trenches. Enemy patrol groups attempting to penetrate our forces' defensive positions were spotted and repulsed by units stationed in the area. The enemy fled after suffering casualties inflicted by our forces' fire.

Exchanges of fire continued in the southern operational theater, being most intense in the (Zayd) sector. Our forces stationed along the banks of Arvand Rud brought enemy positions west of the river under fire, destroying trenches, foxholes, and a mortar, and killing or injuring several enemy personnel.

Yesterday, enemy heavy weapons' fire directed at Abadan damaged six houses.